transparent policy and has invited Resident Ambassadors in Delhi including those representing member countries of the OIC to visit Kashmir if they wish to do so.

(c) No, Sir.

Officials Joining with Multi National Companies

2240. SHRI PARMASHWAR KUMAR AGARWALLA: Will the Minister of PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that some senior level technical and other officials upto Secretary level, of the Ministry of Petroleum and Natural Gas and its attached/subordinate offices have joined the big industrial houses and multinationals engage in the Oil Exploration and in setting up of refineries, on retirement or resigning or by taking pre-mature retirements; and

(b) if so, how many of such officers have joined such companies during the last five years, within two years of their leaving government service and on what basis the requisite government permission was granted to them?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS (CAPT. SATISH SHARMA): (a) No, Sir.

(b) Does not arise.

Target fixed for Lucknow Plan

2241. SHRI MOOLCHAND MEENA:
SHRI SANJAY DALMIA:
SHRI K. M. KHAN:
MAULANA OBAIDULLAH KHAN AZMI:

Will the Minister of SURFACE TRANSPORT be pleased to state:

(a) the details regarding "Lucknow plan" and the targets fixed .to be achieved by 2001 A.D. in that regard; and

(b) the work completed so far and whether entire work in accordance with targets fixed is likely to be achieved by 2001 A.D.?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF SURFACE TRANSPORT (SHRI JAGDISH TYTLER): (a) and (b) Presumably, the Hon'ble Member is referring to the 20-Year Road Development Plan (1981—2001) drawn by the Indian Roads Congress which is a registered society under the Registration Act of 1860. The recommendations/targets enunciated in this Plan document are basically recommendatory in nature and are intended to serve an reference for the formulation of the Five Year Plans etc.

Passport issued/pending in Passport Offices of Bihar

2242. SHRI S. S. AHLUWALIA: Will the Minister of EXTERNAL AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) how many Passport Offices/ Regional Passport Offices are presently functioning in Bihar;

(b) how many passports were issued by these offices during the last three years, year-wise;

(c) what is the average time taken by these offices to issue passports after receiving applications;

(d) how many passport applications are pending in these offices for six months and above; and

(e) what action Government propose to take to clear the backlog?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS (SHRI R. L. BHATIA): (a) There is one Passport Office in the state of Bihar at Patna.

(b) The total number of passports issued by Passport Office, Patna during the last three years was: 36,400 in 1992; 46,608 in 1993; and 70,521 in 1994.

(c) Passport Office, Patna takes about 5-6 weeks to issue a fresh passport.

(d) The total number of applications pending in Passport Office, Patna for six months and above is 493.

(e) Government have and shall continue to take steps to streamline the working of Passport Offices and issue passport expeditiously, such as augmentation of staff strength, upgradation of office facilities including computerisation, review of systems and procedures in order to reduce delays, regular inspections of passport offices and follow-up action.

National Super Highways

2243. SHRI V. GOPALSAMY: Will the Minister of SURFACE TRANSPORT be pleased to state:

(a) which are the national Super Highways being planned presently;

(b) the details of each National Super Highway and the important towns/cities connected when implemented;

(c) through which cities/towns national Super Highway-2 will pass when constructed and also the States/total population in each which will be benefited;

(d) what will be its length;

(e) what are the salient features of National Super Highway;

(f) what will be the approximate cost of each National Super Highway;

(g) by when each National Super Highway work is expected to start; and

(h) whether any foreign collaboration is being sought for this work; if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF SURFACE TRANSPORT (SHRI JAGDISH TYTLER): (a) to (f) The national Highways Authority of India have invited proposals from private sector for carrying out feasibility studies for 33 sections of Super National Highways, major towns/ cities proposed to be connected and approximate length of each section are given in the enclosed Statement *(See* below). The exact length, the States/total population in each of the State to be benefited, the salient features of the Super National Highways as well as the approximate cost of each Super National Highway will be known only after completion of the feasibility studies.

(g) It is too early to indicate the time by which work on Super National Highways is expected to start.

(h) A Memorandum of Understanding with Government of Malaysia has been concluded seeking technical assistance in the field of investigation, design, preparation of bidding documents, concession agreements, etc. for Super National Highways.

Statement

Details of Super National Highway Sections for which Proposals have been invited by NHAI for Carrying out Feasibility Studies

Section	SNH No.	Length (km)
Delhi-Jaipur	SNH1	250
Jaipur-Udaipur	SNH1	400
Udaipur-Ahmedabad	SNH1	250
Ahmedabad-Bombay	SNH1	470
Borabay-Pune-Bangalore	SNH1	500